Department of Health, Education, and Welfare - Public Health Service

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WORLD MEDICAL PERIODICALS

The second edition of World Medical Periodicals has just appeared. This edition of WMP was compiled by Mr. Leslie T. Morton, under the guidance of the Joint Committee on Medical Publications of the World Medical Association and the International Union of the Medical Press (Dr. Hugh A. Clegg, Chairman). The work is published by the World Medical Association and appears just four years after the first edition, which was sponsored jointly by UNESCO and the World Health Organization.

The new edition includes titles of journals in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine "which were in existence in 1957, together with those of well-known journals which have ceased publication since 1900." There are about 544 titles in the latter category. About 1,400 new titles have been added to the second edition, and 600 titles have been dropped. The total number of titles listed is 4,841; this would make the number of "current" titles listed about 4,300. The figures for the first edition were about 3,900 and 3,480, respectively.

As in the first edition, titles are listed alphabetically, followed by the address of the publication, the frequency of issue, the language (when not apparent from the title), and the abbreviation of the title in accordance with the code of rules used by the World List of Scientific Periodicals, as modified by ISO Recommendation R4: International Code for the Abbreviation of Titles of Periodicals, 1954. The text of ISO R4 is conveniently reprinted in the prefatory material. One feature of the first edition, an indication of the abstracting services in which the various titles were regularly surveyed, has been dropped. Again included are useful subject and geographical indexes. In a separate listing, titles of 56 principal international abstracting journals and 13 principal international indexes are recorded.

This is an extremely useful tool for all who are concerned with the tasks of medical librarianship. The World Medical Association, Dr. Clegg, and Mr. Morton are to be congratulated on bringing out this new edition.

BUILDING PLANNING

During the last two months the path between New York and Washington has been kept hot by representatives of the Library and of the architectural firm of O'Connor and Kilham, who have been in almost weekly consultation on building planning. In this period ten different trial schemes have been developed, criticized, and modified. There is considerable evidence that progress is being made.

DAMAGED BOOKS

The books damaged in the "flood" at the National Library of Medicine in September have now been dried out, and it is possible to assess more specifically the resulting losses. There is some good news to report - Abraham Colles' Treatise on surgical anatomy (1811) can be rebound; a replacement has already been found for Cloquet's Anatomy (1828); Sir Astley Cooper's Works can be reshelved, although the volumes are badly water-stained. Quite a few titles were printed on paper of sufficient quality to permit rebinding; some others cannot be salvaged. The Library is particularly interested in acquiring replacements for the following titles.

Cock, Edward. Practical anatomy of the nerves and vessels supplying the head, neck, and chest. London, Cox, 1839. xi, 242 p.

Cocks, W. P. Pathological anatomy of the brain, spinal cord, and their membranes. London, Highley, 1831. xiv, 175 p., 13 coloured plates.

Cocks, W. P. Illustrations of Mr. S. Cooper's surgical dictionary. London, Longman, Rees and Co., 1831. viii, [unpaged except for preface and table of contents].

Combe, George. System of phrenology. Fourth edition, vol. 1. Edinburgh, Maclachlan & Stewart, 1836. 435 p.

Combe, George. Outlines of phrenology. Sixth edition. Edinburgh, Maclachlan & Stewart, 1836. 33 p.

PSYCHOPHARMACA

Just being completed by Dr. Anne E. Caldwell of the staff of the National Library of Medicine is a long bibliography on psychopharmaca, that group of drugs comprising the ataraxics, psychotomimetics, and central nervous system stimulants. The bibliography has been prepared in cooperation with Dr. Jonathan O. Cole of the Psychopharmacology Service Center of the National Institutes of Health, which will now see the work through the press. Publication is expected early in 1958. The bibliography will contain over 2,000 references to the international literature on psychopharmaca published between 1952 and 1957.

NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS

Some books are treasured not only for their contents but also for the glimpses into their individual histories which are afforded by the bindings, bookplates, and inscriptions left upon them by former owners. About thirty such volumes came into the History of Medicine Collection of the National Library of Medicine recently which at one time were in an 18th century library in the Benedictine Monastery at Lambach, Upper Austria. The books had been assembled by the Abbot of the monastery, Maximilian Pagl (1668-1725), apparently for practical use. Some of them bear the manuscript notes and names of earlier physicians such as Joannes Folinus or Johannes Baptist Werloschnigg, whose libraries Maximilian had purchased and who are the authors of works already in the History of Medicine Collection. Many of the volumes at Lambach were specially bound in fine vellum with Maximilian's coat-of-arms and name or initials on the front covers. Outstanding among them are the editions of Vesling's Syntagma anatomicum, 1641, and of Johannes van Horne's Mikrokosmos, 1660; also, a 1596 edition of Pernumia's Nova ... omnes totius corporis humani affectus praeter naturam medendi ratio.

RUDOLPH MATAS, 1860-1957

After an illness of several years' duration Dr. Rudolph Matas, of New Orleans, passed away on September 23, 1957. He had earned renown and world-wide honors as a surgeon. To his friends he was much more -- a learned man, possessing broad interests and phenomenal memory; a man of rare warmth and understanding in all human relationships, whose simple ways enhanced his greatness.

Dr. Matas was a life-long friend of medical libraries. In his early days of practice his study needs required that he leave home and travel periodically to Washington to use the facilities made available by Dr. Billings in the Surgeon General's Library. Realizing the important relationship between books and medical research, he began to build his own collection of books and dreamed of a large medical library in the Tulane University School of Medicine, whose Chair of Surgery he filled from 1895 to 1927. Through the years over 15,000 of his books have been given to the Medical School Library which, in 1937, was named for him and became the Rudolph Matas Medical Library of Tulane University. His will bequeaths the balance of his medical books and papers to the Library which bears his name, and provides an endowment fund of a million dollars, ensuring that Library's adequate support for the future.

SECOND GLANCES

Among serial documents being recataloged recently were the annual reports of the Board of Health of Lynn, Massachusetts. The earliest report was dated 1849; the next, 1881, with none for the intervening years. A cursory look at the contents showed the usual information: proceedings of the Board, discussion of social conditions, statistics, general considerations, conclusions, and recommendations. A note in fine print was found at last in the 1849 issue, stating that the report was a model, extracted from the General Plan for the Promotion of Public and Personal Health, issued in 1850 by the Massachusetts Sanitary Commission. The Commission, in recommending that Boards of Health be set up in every city and town in the state, had prepared a specimen report of the non-existent Board of Health of Lynn. The "facts" presented included information subsequent to the terminal period of the report. The note concludes with the statement that this apparent anomaly will not diminish the force of the facts and the intended illustrations it presents. Such puzzles keep the work of cataloging from becoming humdrum and contribute to the factors which have led to its being called "the gay science."

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Dr. Estelle Brodman addressed the Mid-West Regional Group of the Medical Library Association at Madison, Wisconsin, on October 19, and also spoke to student groups at the Universities of Wisconsin, Chicago, and Illinois while she was in the Midwest.

The Director addressed students of the School of Library Service, Columbia University, on October 29; he will speak before the Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia Regional Group of Catalogers and Classifiers on November 2; on November 9 he will resumé Library plans for the National Advisory Heart Council.

RECENT LIBRARY VISITORS

Madame Henri Puget, Professor of Cataloging and Classification at the Catholic University in Paris.

Mrs. Dorothea Scott, Librarian of the University of Hong Kong.

Mr. Abdel Aziz Taha, National Research Centre of Egypt, Cairo.

Brigadier-General Theodor Joedicke, Inspector-General of the Health and Medical Service of the German Armed Forces.

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